

17. (NEW) A method for restoring a subscriber context in a network element of a mobile communication network, comprising the steps of:

- a) transmitting a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart;
- b) continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart; and
- c) inactivating a subscriber context updated before the latest restart.

18. (NEW) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is a restart counter value and is transmitted together with a context signaling message.

19. (NEW) A method according to claim 18, wherein said restart counter value is compared with a stored restart counter value so as to determine said subscriber context updated before the latest restart.

20. (NEW) A method according to claim 19, wherein said stored restart counter value is updated on the basis of said transmitted restart counter value.

21. (NEW) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is transmitted only one time after said latest restart.

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22. (NEW) A method according to claim 17, wherein said network element is GPRS support node, and wherein said restart information is transmitted together with a tunnel management signaling message.

23. (NEW) A method according to claim 22, wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

24. (NEW) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is transmitted separately or in a separate message.

25. (NEW) A method according to claim 24, wherein said restart information is a restart counter value.

26. (NEW) A system for restoring a subscriber context in a network element (20) of a mobile communication network, comprising:

- a) transmitting means (10) for transmitting to said network element (20) a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart;
- b) wherein said network element (20) comprises receiving means (21) for receiving said restart information, and control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivation a subscriber context updated before said latest restart, in response to said restart information.

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27. (NEW) A system according to claim 26, wherein said transmitting means (10) comprises a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and an adding means (14) for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message, and wherein said network element (20) comprises a comparing means (23) for comparing said restart number with a restart number stored in a storing means (22) and for supplying the comparing result to said control means (24).

28. (NEW) A system according to claim 26, wherein said control means (24) performs control so as to store a new subscriber context included in said subscriber context message and to delete an old subscriber context stored in said network element (20).

29. (NEW) A system according to claim 26, wherein said transmitting means (10) comprises a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and switching means for switching said restart number to said transmitting means (10) so as to be transmitted separately or in a separate message to said network element (20), and wherein said control means (24) is arranged to delete or inactivate corresponding subscriber contexts received before the latest restart.

30. (NEW) A system according to claim 26, wherein said network element is a GPRS support node (4,5) and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

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31. (NEW) A network element (10) for a mobile communication network, comprising transmitting means (15) for transmitting a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart.

32. (NEW) A network element according to claim 31, further comprising a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and adding means (14) for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message.

33. (NEW) A network element according to claim 31, further comprising a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and switching means for switching said restart number to said transmitting means (10) so as to be transmitted separately or in a separate message.

34. (NEW) A network element (20) for a mobile communication network, comprising:

- a) receiving means (21) for receiving a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart, and
- b) control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivating a subscriber context updated before said latest restart in response to said restart information.

35. (NEW) A network element according to claim 34, wherein said restart information is a restart number and wherein said network element (20)

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